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TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER
EIGHTH FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834

EXAMINER

MOONEYHAM, JANICE A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3629

DATE MAILED: 09/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/996,077

Applicant(s)

GRAINGER, JEFFRY J.

Examiner

Janice A. Mooneyham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the applicant's communication filed on August 21, 2006, wherein:

Claims 1-17 are currently pending this application.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on August 21, 2006 is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takano et al (US 6,434,580) (hereinafter referred to as Takano) in view of Serbinis et al

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(US Patent 6,584,466) (hereinafter referred to as Serbinis) and further in view of Gross et al (US 6,918, 082) (hereinafter referred to as Gross).

Referring to Claims 1 and 13-17:

Takano discloses a computer-implemented method and system for managing documents related to a patent application (system, method and recording medium for drafting and preparing patent specifications (title of invention)), the method and system comprising:

a server system (Figure 1 (300) (comprising a processor (inherent) and a memory unit (104)) , wherein upon receipt of a first signal (notification) indicating a request to submit an invention disclosure or a draft patent application for approval, causes the server system to generate a message that requests approval to prepare a patent application for said invention disclosure or comments on the draft application, and routes said message to a second client system (*Figure 2 A6 invention report information sent to **server computer 300**; col. 6, line 27-31 the server computer 300 comprises a draft receiving means 301 and a draft entry means 302. In a **memory unit 310** connected to this computer 300 is stored a specification file 303 which contains a specification file management table 304; col. 8, lines 7-11 upon registration of the **draft data** (draft patent application) for the specification for patent application and pertinent piece of invention report information **into the server computer 300** as described above, the patent-application-filing persons are enabled to revise the draft data on the client computer 200; col. 8, lines 33-37 the draft revision means 202 actuates known text preparation software and drawing software to let the patent-application filing*

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*persons use the software to revise the draft data for the specification for patent application fetched by the draft downloading means 201 (step A11) col. 12, lines 3-19 Referring to FIG. 10, in the fourth preferred embodiment of the invention, the client computer 100 in the third embodiment further includes a **notification means 108**, and the client computer 200 further includes a notification means 204. The **notification means 108 notifies**, by electronic mail, the patent-application-filing persons using the client computer 200 of the fact that the draft uploading means 103 has transmitted the draft data for the specification for patent application and the piece of invention report information on the draft data to the server computer 300. The **notification means 204** notifies, by electronic mail, the inventor using the client computer 100 of the fact that the draft uploading means 203 has transmitted the draft data for the specification for patent application and the piece of invention report information on the draft data to the server computer 300; col. 15, lines 12-18 If the patent-application-filing persons, having referenced the gazette data and the draft data for the specification for patent application, judge that the contents of the draft data are neither novel nor unobvious, and **notify the inventor using the client computer 100, by electronic mail with the notifying means 204, of a decision not to file an application for the pertinent piece of invention report information.)***

storing a first invention disclosure or draft patent application in a memory unit accessible by said server system (col. 5, lines 45-51 Referring to FIG. 1, the first preferred embodiment of the invention consists of a client computer 100, a memory unit 104 connected to this computers 100, a client computer 200, a **server computer**

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300, and a memory unit 310 connected to this computer 300. These computers 100, 200 and 300 operate under programmed control, and are connected to one another via a communication network such as Internet; col. 6, lines 27-31; the server computer 300 comprises a draft receiving means 301 and a draft entry means 302. **In a memory unit 310. in a memory unit 310 connected to this computer 300 is stored a specification file 303, which contains a specification file management table 304);**

receiving, at the server system, a signal from a client system indicating a request to submit the first invention disclosure for review (col. 12, lines 8-13 the notification means 108 notifies, by electronic mail, the patent-application-filing persons using the client computer 200 of the fact that the draft uploading means 103 has transmitted the draft data for the specification for patent application and the piece of invention report information on the draft data to the server computer 300); and

the server system generates a message requesting approval of a second client system to prepare a patent application from the first invention disclosure or comments on the draft patent application and to communicate the message to the second client system (col. 12, lines 14-19 the notification means 204 notifies, by electronic mail, the inventor using the client computer 100 of the fact that the draft uploading means 203 has transmitted the draft data for the specification for patent application and the piece of invention report information on the draft data to the server computer 300; col. 15, lines 12-19; col. 15, lines 12-18 If the patent-application-filing persons, having referenced the gazette data and the draft data for the specification for patent application, judge that the

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*contents of the draft data are neither novel nor unobvious, and **notify the inventor using the client computer 100, by electronic mail with the notifying means 204, of a decision not to file an application for the pertinent piece of invention report information.***)

Takano discloses a specification file management table (304) (col. 7, lines 45-51) and "checking" being corrections or supplementations done by the inventor and "revisions" being those done by the patent-application filing persons (col. 10, lines 8-29). Takano does not explicitly disclose a workflow rule stored on the server system or that the request is to explicitly get approval or solicit comments on the draft or that the memory unit disclosed in Takano is a database.

Serbinis discloses workflow information with an Internet accessible server programmed to provide a plurality of document management services including workflow, wherein a client system is allowed to set up workflow rules that define, for predetermined events, selected client systems for the server system to send messages (Figure 2 (61), col. 2, lines 52-57 *Internet based document management system and method that permit users to access a plurality of services supported by a common Internet-based database, including document storage, collaborative file sharing and workflow, document delivery and distribution; col. 10, lines 23-34*) and a database for storing the documents (col. 5, lines 26-35 *database 25, which may be a relational database, stores data concerning documents controlled by server computer and stored in store 30; col. 4, lines 16-28; col. 5, line 63 thru col. 6, line 1 Notification server 35; col. 6, line 64 thru col. 7, line 3 Notification information tables; col. 10, lines 23-34*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate into the drafting and preparation method and system of Takano the workflow information and database as taught in Serbinis to provide an Internet-based document management system and method that permit users to access a plurality of services supported by a common Internet-based database for collaborative file sharing and document distribution.

Gross discloses receiving a request to solicit comments and approval of a document (Figure 4 (112); col. 3, lines 59-62; col. 4, lines 43-47) and allowing for comments to be relayed upon viewing and/or proofing the document (col. 6, lines 49-52 upon viewing and/or proofing the document, the system allows the recipient or recipients to relay their comments and decision back to the server).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate into the drafting and preparation method and system of Takano the ability to approve and comment on the documents upon review as taught in Gross to allow the reviewers to relay their comments and decisions on the document back to the server so the document creator may access it or to indicate that the document version is final via the approval command.

Referring to Claim 2:

Gross discloses wherein the message is an alert that when read, allows the second client system to select to approve or disapprove preparation of the document and wherein after the second client system makes a selection, stores the selection in the database (col. 4, lines 43-47; col. 4, line 55 thru col. 5, line 2; col. 6, lines 49-59).

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Referring to Claim 3:

Gross discloses wherein if the second client system selects to approve preparation of the document, the server system generates a second message indicating the document has been approved for preparation (col. 4, line 43 thru col. 5, line 2).

Referring to Claim 4:

Takano discloses wherein the message is communicated to a client system associated with a patent law firm (*col. 6, lines 5-15 the client computer is used by a person of the patent application processing department of a company or a person of a patent attorney's office requested by the company to file the patent application*).

Referring to Claim 5:

Takano discloses wherein the server system includes an access management system that assigns client systems to one or more user groups and assigns data and documents stored in the database to one or more user groups, and wherein the access management system allows a client system connected to the server system to access data and/or documents if the client system is assigned to the same group as the data and/or document (*Figure 3 and col. 7, lines 11-27, Figure 4 and col. 7, line 52 thru col. 8, line 24 displays on a display unit a list of all the pieces of invention report information registered in this table 304 (or only those satisfying specific conditions [e.g. only those pertaining to inventors belonging to a specific department]; col. 10, lines 8-29*).

Referring to Claim 6:

Takano discloses wherein the first and second client systems are associated with a first technology developer and assigned by the server system to a first user group

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(col. 1, lines 8-17 a method and system for preparing patent specifications with inventors and persons in charge of filing patent applications **using a plurality of computers connected to a communication network**, such as the Internet, for preparing patent specifications for patent applications; col. 5, lines 55-61 the draft preparation means 101 is used by an employee or the like of a company (hereinafter referred to as an inventor) to report on an invention by the inventor as part of his or her duty in the company to department of the company responsible for patent application processing), said invention disclosure is part of a Case Data Unit assigned to the first user group (col. 8, lines 14-20 **displays on a display unit (not shown) a list of all the pieces of invention report information registered in this table 304 (or only those satisfying specific conditions [e.g. only those pertaining to inventors belonging to a specific department])**), the third client system is assigned to a second user group different from the first user group (col. 6, lines 5-15 the client computer 200 is used by a person of the patent application processing department of a company or a person of a patent attorney's office requested by the company to file a patent application) and in response to the second client system approving preparation of the patent application the server system also assigns the invention disclosure to the second group (Figures 3-5, 14, 17 and col. 3, line 32 thru col. 4, line 55; See col. 7, line 54 thru col. 24 - Referring to FIG. 4, the table 304 consists of a plurality of entries for registering plural pieces of invention report information, and each entry consists of fields 21 to 26 in which items constituting a **piece of invention report information including a reference number, the title of the invention,**

the inventor's name, his or her employee ID number, assigned department and telephone numbers are registered, a field 27 in which the storage address of draft data pertaining to that particular piece of invention report information in the specification file 303 is registered. Another specific example of registration processing at step A8 is conceivable, in which a piece of invention report information and draft data are put together and stored into a single directory (file), and this file, to which a directory (file) name enabling both the inventor using the client computer 100 and the patent-application-filing persons using the client computer 200 to identify the draft data, e.g. the reference number contained in the pertinent piece of invention report information, is assigned, is registered in the specification file 303. Upon registration of the draft data for the specification for patent application and the pertinent piece of invention report information into the server computer 300 as described above, the patent-application-filing persons are enabled to revise the draft data on the client computer 200. When the draft is to be revised, first the draft downloading means 201 of the computer 200 references the specification file management table 304 in the specification file 303 of the server computer 300; displays on a display unit (not shown) a list of all the pieces of invention report information registered in this table 304 (or only those satisfying specific conditions [e.g. only those pertaining to inventors belonging to a specific department]) (step A9); lets the patent-application-filing persons select a desired piece of invention report information; finds the storage address of the draft data pertaining to the

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selected piece of invention report information from the specification file management table 304; and reads the draft data from the specification file 303 on the basis of that address (step A10).

Referring to Claim 7:

Serbinis discloses workflow rules (Figure 2, (61) and col. 6, lines 19-46

Referring to FIG. 2, DMS database 25 is described in greater detail.

*Database 25 includes a plurality of tables 61-64 and 66-68 that maintain information on documents stored in store 30. Each of tables 61-64 and 66-68 may in turn consist of multiple tables. Document information tables 61 have entries for a number of document-related parameters, including: information on a document's parent document group; information on the document instances; information on the transport method to be used for retrieval of a document instance; information on the priority of the document; expiration information: the date and time when a document instance is changed from "active" status to "archived" status; **workflow information for a document instance; security information; document rights; and document group rights.** User information tables 62 have entries for information relating to users registered to access and use the DMS system, including: the name of the user; logon information for the user, e.g., user ID and password; user notification information, e.g., notification address and transport type; billing code information; information on the user's account, where each user account is unique to a service account and user; user session information; and **user group information, i.e., information on the group of users that the user***

is a part of, including the name of the group, the state of the group, the group's security information, and document rights for the group).

Serbinis discloses user group information. Serbinis does not disclose that the rules are associated with a technology developer.

However, Takano discloses the association with the technology developer (Figure 3 and col. 7, lines 11-27, Figure 4 and col. 7, line 52 thru col. 8, line 24 displays on a display unit a list of all the pieces of invention report information registered in this table 304 (or only those satisfying specific conditions [e.g. only those pertaining to inventors belonging to a specific department]; col. 10, lines 8-29).

Referring to Claim 8:

Takano discloses wherein the client system sends a signal to the server system over the Internet (col. 1, lines 8-18 program for preparing patent specifications with inventors and persons in charge of filing patent applications using a plurality of computers connected to a communication network, such as Internet; col. 7, lines 27-34 transmits them, together with the piece of invention report information on the draft data to the server computer).

Referring to Claim 9:

Takano discloses wherein the first client system uploads the invention disclosure to the server system as part of the submission process (col. 7, lines 27-34 draft uploading means; transmits draft data to the server computer).

Referring to Claim 10:

Takano discloses wherein the first client system creates the invention disclosure under the guidance of pages generated by the system (col. 6, line 44 thru col. 7, line 26 input screen; col. 7, line 52 thru col. 8, line 6; col. 9, lines 14-21 template data).

Referring to Claims 11-12:

Serbinis discloses wherein said message includes a link to documents (col. 1, lines 36-42 e-mail message with direct reference (i.e., URL) to electronic document stored on a server; col. 1, line 63 thru col. 2, line 9).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed August 21, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. These arguments are the same essentially the same arguments presented on March 17, 2006 and again on July 7, 2006.

The applicant asserts that to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the Office action must establish a teaching or suggestion in the cited prior art of each claimed limitation. The applicant argues that none of the references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a workflow rule of executing the workflow rule to generate a message requesting approval to prepare a patent application from an invention disclosure.

The applicant argues that Takano does not teach a workflow rule. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on

combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Serbinis, Takano and Gross disclose document preparation by the transmission and reception of data via a server computer (Takano col. 2, lines 3-10; Serbinis col. 5, lines 4-15). The Examiner asserts that the combination of Takano, Serbinis and Gross are analogous art since they are in the field of appellant's endeavor and are reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the appellant is concerned. See *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24 USPQ2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992).

Takano discloses a system and method for preparing patent specifications for patent applications (col. 1, lines 8-18).

Serbinis discloses workflow information with an Internet accessible server programmed to provide a plurality of document management services including workflow, wherein a client system is allowed to set up workflow rules that define, for predetermined events, selected client systems for the server system to send messages (*Figure 2 (61), col. 2, lines 52-57 Internet based document management system and method that permit users to access a plurality of services supported by a common Internet-based database, including document storage, collaborative file sharing and workflow, document delivery and distribution; col. 10, lines 23-34*) and a database for storing the documents (*col. 5, lines 26-35 database 25, which may be a relational database, stores data concerning documents controlled by server computer and stored in store 30; col. 4, lines 16-28; col. 5, line 63 thru col. 6, line 1 Notification server 35; col. 6, line 64 thru col. 7, line 3 Notification information tables; col. 10, lines 23-34*).

Takano discloses a notification means (col. 12, lines 55-64) and Serbinis discloses a notification means (col. 6, line 64 thru col. 7, line 3).

Takano discloses requesting approval to prepare a patent application from an invention disclosure (col. 15, lines 12-18 If the patent-application-filing persons, having referenced the gazette data and the draft data for the specification for patent application, judge that the contents of the draft data are neither novel nor unobvious, and **notify the inventor using the client computer 100, by electronic mail with the notifying means 204, of a decision not to file an application for the pertinent piece of invention report information.**)

The applicant argues that Serbinis does not teach or suggest a workflow *rule*, only a table or list of tasks and that the table cannot be executed.

Applicant describes the workflow process in paragraphs [0052-0054].

[0052] ***The workflow process is the process of routing documents to predetermined users, notifying the appropriate users of required tasks, periodically reminding users of task completion deadlines, and tracking time periods associated with both tasks and the time between tasks, all according to a customer-defined workflow process design. Workflow examples include the circulation of invention disclosures to a review committee for filing decisions, routing of invention disclosures to a working practitioner for drafting patent applications, circulation of draft patent applications to inventors and managers for review and comment, circulation of Patent Office forms to inventors and managers for signature, notification of practitioners of the receipt of Patent Office actions and papers, and routing of documents to service providers (e.g., informal drawings to a draftsman for creation of formal drawings) as needed.***

[0053] ***The workflow design is defined in the customer set-up process. In the set-up process, users are assigned roles that play a part in the workflow. Rules are established that dictate to whom documents are routed at each stage in the process, how often users should be reminded of a task, and what task is required next after each preceding task. IP data processing system 100 has a mechanism for notifying users of required tasks,***

and for users to notify the system that tasks are complete. The system makes available (for example, through html links to documents stored in database 106) to the appropriate users any documents necessary for performing the relevant task (e.g., a maintenance fee due date reminder task sent to an appropriate in-house practitioner at a technology developer 110(x) may include an html link to the allowed patent so the practitioner can quickly review the patent's abstract and claims). In order to track and identify bottlenecks in the workflow process, the system automatically tracks the amount of total time elapsed since the beginning of the workflow, as well as the time elapsed during the performance of each task and the time elapsed between each task. The set-up process can be rerun at a later date to allow flexibility for changing roles or tasks, eliminating tasks, changing document routing, or otherwise redefining the workflow for any document at any time by authorized users.

[0054] Once a customer (e.g., technology developer 110, patent law firm 120, etc.) has set-up IP data processing system 100 to their requirements, the system is ready to be used.

Serbinis discloses a workflow service (rule) in which a workflow table may be associated with a document in DMS database that ***specifies multiple tasks to be performed in sequence*** (workflow rule) by the Authorized Users. The Originator may associate or import a series of task descriptions stored in DMS database with a document and a list of Authorized Users responsible for performing those tasks. After an Authorized User retrieves the document, performs the task assigned to him or her and returns the document to store, ***notification server generates and sends an appropriate notification to the Authorized user responsible for the next task in the workflow*** (col. 10, lines 23-34).

The Merriam Webster Online Dictionary defines the term execute as:

ExecuteMain Entry: **ex·e·cute** ☐

Pronunciation: 'ek-si-"kyüt

Function: *verb*Inflected Form(s): **-cut·ed; -cut·ing**Etymology: Middle English, from Middle French *executer*, back-formation from *execution**transitive senses***1** : to carry out fully : put completely into effect <execute a command>**2** : to do what is provided or required by <execute a decree>**3** : to put to death especially in compliance with a legal sentence**4** : to make or produce (as a work of art) especially by carrying out a design**5** : to perform what is required to give validity to <execute a deed>**6** : **PLAY** <execute a piece of music>*intransitive senses***1** : to perform properly or skillfully the fundamentals of a sport or of a particular play <never had a team execute better -- Bobby Knight>**2** : to perform indicated tasks according to encoded instructions -- used of a computer program or routine**synonym** see **KILL**, **PERFORM****- ex·e·cut·able** ☐ /-"kyü-t&-b&/ *adjective*

Thus, Serbinis carries out or performs tasks according to instructions, thus executing a workflow rule.

The applicant argues that Gross does not teach or suggest a workflow rule nor executing the workflow rule to generate a message requesting approval to prepare a patent applicant from an invention disclosure. Gross was cited for the limitation of receiving a request to solicit comments and approval of a document (Figure 4 (112); col. 3, lines 59-62; col. 4, lines 43-47) and allowing for comments to be relayed upon viewing and/or proofing the document (col. 6, lines 49-52 upon viewing and/or proofing

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the document, the system allows the recipient or recipients to relay their comments and decision back to the server). In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

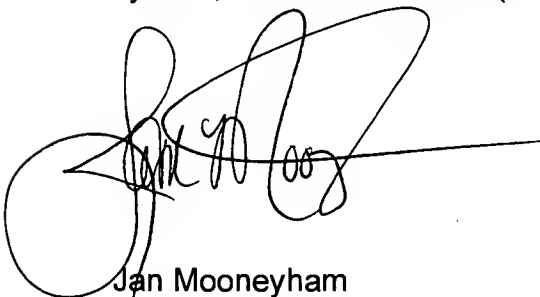
Thus, the Examiner asserts that the prior art does disclose storing a workflow rule on a server system and executing the workflow rule to generate a message. Furthermore, the applicant's assertion that all of the references teach sending email notifications base on a stored record or a table of users, not on an executed rule, is incorrect. Serbinis discloses a workflow service (rule) in which a workflow table may be associated with a document in DMS database that ***specifies multiple tasks to be performed in sequence*** (workflow rule) by the Authorized Users. The Originator may associate or import a series of task descriptions stored in DMS database with a document and a list of Authorized Users responsible for performing those tasks. After an Authorized User retrieves the document, performs the task assigned to him or her and returns the document to store, ***notification server generates and sends an appropriate notification to the Authorized user responsible for the next task in the workflow (col. 10, lines 23-34).***

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Janice A. Mooneyham whose telephone number is (571) 272-6805. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Mooneyham', with a large, stylized circular flourish on the left side.

Jan Mooneyham
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3629